

**Restaurant owners and managers should plan for and encourage ill employees to stay home.**

- **Consider ways to allow sick employees to stay home** without fear of losing their jobs.
- **Develop flexible leave policies** to allow employees to stay home to care for sick family members or for children, if schools dismiss students or childcare programs close.
- **Employees who get sick at work should go home as soon as possible.** If the employee cannot go home immediately, he or she should be separated from other employees and customers.
- **Plan for how business can continue if many employees must stay home.** Designate and train other employees in the event someone becomes sick to make sure you can continue your critical functions.

**Restaurant employees should *not* work while ill.**

- **Employees should stay home if they are sick and until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever** (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius) or signs of a fever (have chills, feel very warm, have a flushed appearance, or are sweating). Make sure fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medicines (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen).
- **Employees at higher risk of complications from flu should contact their health care provider as soon as possible.** People at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 flu complications include pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes). Taking antiviral medicines early might prevent severe complications from the flu, such as hospitalization or death.
- **Encourage all employees to get vaccinated for seasonal flu.** Also encourage employees who are at higher risk for complications from 2009 H1N1 flu to receive the vaccine when it becomes available.

***Everyone should wash their hands frequently.***

- **Washing your hands often** will help protect you from germs, including H1N1. Wash with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds.
- **Alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used, but may not take the place of washing hands with soap and water.** It is fine to use hand sanitizer gel after washing hands with soap.

**The 2009 H1N1 viruses are not spread by food.**

- **Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.** You cannot get infected with novel H1N1 virus from eating pork or pork products.